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Notes:

Data used in the construction of all figures contained within the Quarterly Statistical Review are available on request from Research and Planning.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN ALBERTA

Mary Engelmann and Norma Harper*

I. INTRODUCTION

It has been said that older persons are often lonely, isolated and neglected. While one should not ignore the losses that may occur to people in their later years, the 1971 and 1976 census data on the living arrangements of those 65 years of age or over in Alberta show that the majority of senior citizens are living in family situations, a fact contrary to the popular folklore and to the beliefs held by many professionals working with the elderly.

The data show that many senior citizens are living with a spouse, and a surprising number of the widowed and single live with other family members. Those who are planning and delivering services are reminded, through these data, of the existence of family life for many Alberta elderly.

II. OVERVIEW OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN ALBERTA (1971 and 1976)

In 1976 there were 137,915 persons 65 years of age and over, a fairly substantial increase in numbers over the 118,750 in 1971 (see Table 1). However, the percentages of seniors in the total population remained about the same (7.3% in 1971 and 7.5% in 1976) due to in-migration of those in younger age groups.

The composition of the elderly population changed over the five year period with a slightly smaller proportion in 1976 being between 75 and 84 years (28.9% as compared to 30.6% in 1971), and slightly higher proportions in the 65 to 74 year age group (62.0% vs. 60.7% in 1971) and the 85 years and over age group (9.1% vs. 8.6% in 1971).[1]

Among the elderly in 1971, men slightly outnumbered women; in 1976, elderly women outnumbered the men (especially in the 75 and over age group). The net increase of older women was twice that of older men.

Marital status of the elderly is shown in Table 2. The 1976 figures show 56.6 percent of the seniors were married; most of the remainder were widowed (34%). Very few seniors were single, divorced or separated. There were no significant changes in the marital status of seniors from 1971 to 1976.

In 1976, nearly three quarters of the men aged 65 and over were married (73.0%), while only 41.6 percent of the women were married. The majority of elderly women (52.1%) were widowed. This proportion increased greatly with age, as 71.5 percent of the women aged

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[1] Census of Canada, 1971 and 1976.

75 and over were widowed. The proportion of widowed women in the 75 and over age group has increased slightly since 1971, when it was 68.2 percent. More men than women were single, divorced or separated in both 1971 and 1976.

The urban-rural distribution of the elderly in Alberta shifted somewhat between 1971 and 1976 as Table 3 shows. The older population became more urban with an increase from 53.8 percent in 1971 to 57.7 percent in 1976 living in urban areas of 10,000 or more. There was a lesser increase in the urbanization of the general population (60.2% in 1971 increased to 62.4% in 1976).

In contrast with the total population, senior citizens are living in greater proportion in the small urban and rural non-farm areas of the province. The rural non-farm and small urban areas both in 1971 and 1976 were "older" than the other areas with seniors making up about 10 percent of the population. A smaller proportion of seniors lived in the farm areas in 1976 than in 1971 (6.5% vs. 10.4% in 1971), and this shows a great decline from 1961 when the proportion of seniors living in farm areas was 18.6 percent.[2] In the urban areas older women outnumbered their male peers, while in the rural non-farm and the farm areas in both 1971 and 1976 there were more older men than older women.

III. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

A. Living Arrangements of Alberta Senior Citizens

This section examines the living arrangements of those 65 and over in 1971 and 1976. Four categories were established and analysed from the census data: living in a nuclear family - with a spouse or a spouse and an unmarried child; living in an extended family either related or non-related; living in a non-family situation (this includes living with one or more unrelated persons - friend or friends, boarding house, institution); and living alone. (See Tables 4 and 5.)

Nuclear Family Situation

Close to half the senior citizens were living with a spouse or a spouse and an unmarried child (45.7% in 1971 and 46.9% in 1976). The vast majority of seniors living in a nuclear family situation in both 1971 and 1976 were under 75 years of age, and over half were men. In fact, both in 1971 and 1976, over half of all the male seniors were living in a nuclear family situation. The proportion of these living in a nuclear family increased as the size of the community decreased.

Extended Family Situation

A sizeable number of older people were sharing housing with children, other relatives or families unrelated to them. This group made up 18.9 percent of the total elderly population in 1971 and 16 percent in 1976, a considerable drop. In both 1971 and 1976, women were more likely than men to be living in an extended family situation

[2] Census of Canada, 1961.

(over 60% of this group was female). The farm areas had the biggest proportion of seniors living in extended families, followed by large urban areas. Table 5 shows some interesting changes from 1971 to 1976.

Non-Family Situations

A number of senior citizens were living with groups of one or more unrelated persons (not a family) - a category covering those living in institutions such as lodges, nursing homes, auxiliary hospitals and the few living in boarding homes or with a friend or friends. In Alberta in 1971, 15,570 senior citizens or 13 percent of the total were in this category [3]. In 1976, the number increased to 18,290, still 13 percent of the total. In 1976, approximately 15,140 of these were in lodges and other forms of long term institutional care.[4] The majority were 75 years of age and over, and a greater number were women. This is not surprising as a very large proportion of the group (13,745 out of the 15,570 in 1971) were single, widowed or divorced and women made up the largest proportion (two-thirds) of both non-married senior citizens and "older" senior citizens. Very few married senior citizens were in this category. There were greater proportions of seniors living in non-family situations (institutions) in the small urban areas than in other areas in 1971 (20.0%) and in 1976 (18.7%).

Living Alone

A fairly high proportion of senior citizens were living alone, 22.1 percent of the total in 1971 and 23.3 percent in 1976. Many more of these were women (62.8% in 1971 and 70.4% in 1976) and most were widowed. By 1976, close to one-third of all the women over 65 were living alone (31.4%). The farm areas had a much lower proportion of seniors living alone. Interestingly, the proportion of men living alone decreased by 1.8 percent and the proportion of women living alone increased by 3.6 percent between 1971 and 1976.

B. Living Arrangements of those 75 Years of Age and Over

It is important to consider the living arrangements of the age group 75 and over, for the "older elderly" are more likely to have chronic illness with resulting dependencies, and are more likely to be in need of a variety of appropriate health and social services.[5]

The following table compares the living arrangements of this group with those of all the elderly.

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[3] 10.9 percent (13,956) of those 65 years and over were in some form of institutional care (lodges included) in 1974 (Cornell and Engelmann, 1975).

[4] Population over 65 in collective dwellings, 1976 census unpublished data.

[5] See Engelmann, Harper and Howell, 1977.

Living Arrangement	All Seniors		75 and Older	
	1971	1976	1971	1976
Nuclear Family	45.7%	46.9%	31.9%	31.4%
Extended Family	18.9%	16.3%	21.9%	18.4%
Non-Family	13.3%	13.4%	22.6%	24.4%
Living Alone	22.1%	23.3%	23.5%	25.8%

The proportion of seniors aged 75 and over who were institutionalized was much higher than the proportion of all seniors in this category.

Even so, close to half are living in family situations, many still with a spouse and greater percentages than the total group in extended families. A slightly higher proportion were living alone. In 1971, almost as many were in extended family situations as in non-family situations (friends, boarding homes, institutions). By 1976, there was a definite drop in the proportion of those seniors in extended families and a corresponding increase in those living alone and with non-families. It is interesting to note that between 1971 and 1976, the proportion of all those 65 and over in non-family situations did not change and the proportion of those living alone increased only slightly. However, there was a definite increase during the 5 year interval in the percentage of older seniors in non-family situations and an increase in the percentage of those living alone.

IV. DISCUSSION

In Alberta, as in the rest of Canada, the number of persons 65 years of age and over is increasing and there is every indication that the proportion of those in the "older" age group of seniors will grow. In view of this, it is important to consider the census data examined in this article which show that family life is lessening for "older" seniors (those 75 and over). During the five year period between 1971 and 1976, the proportion of "older" elderly living alone increased[6] as did the proportion living in non-family (institutional) situations.

Living in a family situation is a major source of support for older persons. While living alone does not necessarily mean that one is isolated from one's family, those living alone may be more "at risk". Furthermore, current knowledge and research about the elderly suggests that institutionalization, unless absolutely necessary, is questionable, not only in terms of cost[7] but more significantly, in terms of quality of life.[8]

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[6] Between 1971 and 1976 the province built a great many subsidized senior citizen apartments. This could have an effect on the living arrangements data -- increasing the percentage of those alone.

[7] As of July 1978, the government subsidy is $18.50 per day to nursing homes of 50 beds or less and $17.50 per day to homes with 51 or more beds. The approximate annual cost to the government to maintain an individual in a nursing home is $6,387.50 ($532.29 per month).
The lodges are subsidized from municipal taxes for operating costs. In 1976 the per diem subsidy was $1.75 per individual or $53.23 per month and $638.75 per year.

[8] It is recognized that lodge, nursing home and auxiliary hospital care is necessary for some elderly. Some persons require and benefit from the intensive care provided, especially in the latter two situations. But such care should be considered only after a careful assessment of the total situation of the older person and exploration of alternatives.

One major Alberta study indicated that residents in institutions had a much lower level of life satisfaction than did community residents (Alberta Council on Aging and Department of Health and Social Development, 1974). Current knowledge emphasizes that care for the elderly should be family and community oriented with an attempt to keep them in their own homes and communities whenever possible. Greater recognition is being given to the fact that elderly, like persons of all ages, need to have close personal ties and feel part of a group where they are able to contribute as well as receive, and that this is most often possible in family and community life.

Prevention of unnecessary dependency is essential. This can be achieved by guarding against excessive service and ensuring that dependency needs are met only to the point that independence is enhanced.

In view of what is known about the psychological and health needs of the elderly, greater effort should be made to learn more about the family and community life of our elderly and to explore ways in which it can be strengthened.

The census data and Alberta surveys of senior citizens (most living in the community) show that family life for the elderly exists, and that the elderly do have many contacts with family and friends.[9] However, there is little known about the nature and quality of these contacts. An exploration of this, especially for the older elderly living alone, would be useful in developing appropriate helping services which could recognize, encourage and assist the support provided by family and friends.

Research available from other places indicates that relationships between adult children and elderly parents are often reciprocal ones; that is, the older generation not only receives assistance and help, but in turn is often the giver of such aid. In addition, the research indicates that such support is not limited to those living in family situations. Most older persons living alone have many supportive and reciprocal contacts with relatives and friends.

There are ways to support family and friendship ties. Information for the general public and transition counselling on the family changes associated with aging as well as discussion groups for "adult children" have been suggested.[10] Also proposed has been the provision

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[9] Lacombe Council on Aging Survey, 1970; Snider, Earle, Department of Sociology, The Medical Services Research Project: Health Care and the Non-Institutionalized Senior Citizen in Edmonton, 1973; Alberta Council on Aging and Department of Health and Social Development, The Continuum of Care for Senior Citizens in Alberta, 1974; Society for Retired and Semi-Retired, Operation New Roof: A Study of the Housing of Senior Citizens in Edmonton, 1974; Senior Citizens Survey: Smoky River Municipal District No. 30, June 1974; Senior Needs Survey Report: Provost and District Preventive Social Services.

[10] The Senior Citizens Bureau is developing some printed material for a resource kit for "Families with Seniors". The information service (and local services) receives regular calls from concerned family members and it has become obvious that families want to help and are seeking information about how to be most effective.

of incentives to family networks to provide supports as an alternative to institutional services.[11] Among these are the availability of appropriate helping services such as home care and short-term institutionalization for family respite, the direct monthly allotment of support funds, specific tax write-offs for expenses incurred in support, and low cost loans to renovate or build additions to homes for accommodation in which the elderly person can live separately and maintain independence. Recognizing that there are some older persons with no or limited family support,[12] it has been suggested that the creation of "kin-like" supports and living arrangements, particularly between young and old, could be considered. Certainly greater mutual support and caring within housing projects for seniors could be encouraged.

The need for persons of all ages, whether 25 or 85, for warm and reciprocal relationships should be sufficient incentive to study and explore ways of strengthening family and friendship ties of the elderly in our province. Many more Albertans will be living longer and it is imperative to find ways to make their lives as fulfilling and satisfying as possible.

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[11] It is suggested that families should be encouraged not discouraged to help. This is not to be confused with a policy of "dumping" ill and dependent elderly relatives on family members. This can be most unfortunate, for the family then is forced to provide care with inadequate resources. The ability of a family to provide care varies greatly with the personalities and strengths of all involved, other pressures on it, and cannot be expected automatically. Supports such as those described will help those families with basically sound relationships and will make no or little difference where the relationships are poor.

[12] A study of senior citizens in Edmonton, Operation New Roof (see footnote 9) which interviewed a carefully drawn sample (317) of those 65 and over showed that only 8 percent had no relative in the city (25% had no children in the city).

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TABLE 1

AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION, ALBERTA, 1971 AND 1976

		65-74			75+			Total 65+		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1971	#	36,885	35,230	72,115	22,595	24,040	46,635	59,480	59,270	118,750
% of age group	%	51.1	48.9	100.0	48.5	51.5	100.0	50.1	49.9	100.0
% of sex group	%	62.0	59.4	60.7	38.0	40.6	39.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
1976	#	42,280	43,245	85,525	23,450	28,940	52,390	65,730	72,185	137,915
% of age group	%	49.4	50.6	100.0	44.8	55.2	100.0	47.7	52.3	100.0
% of sex group	%	64.3	59.9	62.0	35.7	40.1	38.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Net Increase		5,395 14.6	8,015 22.8	13,410 18.6	855 3.8	4,900 20.4	5,755 12.3	6,250 10.5	12,915 21.8	19,165 16.1

Source: Censuses of Canada 1971 and 1976.

TABLE 2A

MARITAL STATUS BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA, 1971

Marital Status		65-74			75+			Total		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Single	#	4,695	1,730	6,425	2,785	1,050	3,835	7,480	2,780	10,260
	%	12.7	4.9	8.9	12.3	4.4	8.2	12.6	4.7	8.6
Married	#	28,405	18,860	47,265	13,540	6,410	19,950	41,945	25,270	67,215
	%	77.0	53.5	65.5	59.9	26.7	42.8	70.5	42.7	56.6
Widowed	#	3,115	14,155	17,270	5,970	16,385	22,355	9,085	30,540	39,625
	%	8.5	40.2	24.0	26.4	68.2	48.0	15.3	51.5	33.4
Divorced	#	660	480	1,140	300	180	480	960	660	1,620
	%	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.6	1.1	1.4
Total	#	36,875	35,225	72,100	22,595	24,025	46,620	59,470	59,250	118,720
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 2B

MARITAL STATUS BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA, 1976

Marital Status		65-74			75+			Total		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Single	#	4,435	2,210	6,645	2,730	1,305	4,035	7,165	3,515	10,680
	%	10.5	5.1	7.8	11.6	4.5	7.7	10.9	4.9	7.7
Married	#	33,565	23,220	56,785	14,465	6,765	21,230	48,030	29,985	78,015
	%	79.4	53.7	66.4	61.7	23.4	40.5	73.1	41.6	56.6
Widowed	#	3,285	16,955	20,240	5,970	20,675	26,645	9,255	37,630	46,885
	%	7.7	39.2	23.7	25.5	71.5	50.9	14.1	52.1	34.0
Divorced	#	1,005	845	1,850	280	185	465	1,285	1,030	2,315
	%	2.4	2.0	2.1	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.9	1.4	1.7
Total	#	42,290	43,230	85,520	23,445	28,930	52,375	65,735	72,160	137,895
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Censuses of Canada 1971 and 1976.

TABLE 3A

RURAL/URBAN DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ALBERTA POPULATION
1971

Age		Urban (10,000 & Over)			Urban (1,000-9,999)			Rural Non-Farm			Rural Farm			Total Alberta		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
0-64	#	459,770	456,850	916,620	97,850	95,425	193,275	90,935	84,545	175,480	119,725	103,960	223,685	768,280	740,780	1,509,060
	%	94.0	93.0	93.5	89.9	89.4	89.6	88.9	90.6	89.7	93.9	95.8	94.8	92.8	92.6	92.7
65-74	#	17,915	20,235	38,150	6,170	6,340	12,510	6,945	5,565	12,510	5,850	3,085	8,935	36,880	35,225	72,105
	%	3.7	4.1	3.9	5.6	5.9	5.8	6.8	6.0	6.4	4.6	2.8	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.4
75+	#	11,410	14,390	25,800	4,865	4,970	9,835	4,375	3,215	7,590	1,955	1,460	3,415	22,605	24,035	46,640
	%	2.3	2.9	2.6	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.4	3.9	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.7	3.0	2.9
Total	#	489,095	491,475	980,570	108,885	106,735	215,620	102,255	93,325	195,580	127,530	108,505	236,035	827,765	800,040	1,627,805
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Row %			60.2			13.3			12.0			14.5			100.0
Total 65+	#	29,325	34,625	63,950	11,035	11,310	22,345	11,320	8,780	20,100	7,805	4,545	12,350	59,485	59,260	118,745
	%	6.0	7.0	6.5	10.1	10.6	10.4	11.1	9.4	10.3	6.1	4.2	5.2	7.2	7.4	7.3
	Row %			53.9			18.8			16.9			10.4			100.0

TABLE 3B

RURAL/URBAN DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ALBERTA POPULATION
1976

Age		Urban (10,000 & Over)			Urban (1,000-9,999)			Rural Non-Farm			Rural Farm			Total Alberta		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
0-64	#	537,365	529,310	1,066,675	105,420	102,720	208,140	126,755	117,930	244,685	97,075	83,505	180,580	866,615	833,465	1,700,080
	%	93.9	92.2	93.1	89.8	88.9	89.4	90.4	91.5	90.9	94.7	95.8	95.2	93.0	92.0	92.5
65-74	#	22,225	26,265	48,490	7,190	7,365	14,555	8,765	7,110	15,875	4,115	2,495	6,610	42,295	43,235	85,530
	%	3.9	4.6	4.2	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.9	4.0	2.9	3.5	4.5	4.8	4.7
75+	#	12,595	18,505	31,100	4,825	5,410	10,235	4,730	3,920	8,650	1,325	1,115	2,440	23,475	28,950	52,425
	%	2.2	3.2	2.7	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.4	3.0	3.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.5	3.2	2.8
Total	#	572,185	574,080	1,146,265	117,435	115,495	232,930	140,250	128,960	269,210	102,515	87,115	189,630	932,385	905,650	1,838,035
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Row %			62.4			12.7			14.6			10.3			100.0
Total 65+	#	34,820	44,770	79,590	12,015	12,775	24,790	13,495	11,030	24,525	5,440	3,610	9,050	65,770	72,185	137,955
	%	6.1	7.8	6.9	10.2	11.1	10.6	9.6	8.5	9.1	5.3	4.1	4.8	7.0	8.0	7.5
	Row %			57.7			18.0			17.8			6.5			100.0

TABLE 4A

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA, 1971

Living Arrangement		65-74			75+			Total 65+		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Nuclear Family	#	23,685	15,485	39,170	10,170	4,325	14,495	33,855	19,810	53,665
	%	64.3	44.2	54.5	46.0	18.5	31.9	57.5	33.9	45.7
Extended Family	#	4,965	7,295	12,260	3,710	6,265	9,975	8,675	13,560	22,235
	%	13.5	20.8	17.1	16.8	26.8	21.9	14.7	23.2	18.9
Non-Family or Institution	#	2,530	2,740	5,270	4,255	6,045	10,300	6,785	8,785	15,570
	%	6.9	7.8	7.3	19.3	25.9	22.6	11.5	15.0	13.3
Living Alone	#	5,645	9,520	15,165	3,965	6,745	10,710	9,610	16,265	25,875
	%	15.3	27.2	21.1	17.9	28.8	23.6	16.3	27.8	22.1
Total	#	36,825	35,040	71,865	22,100	23,380	45,480	58,925	58,420	117,345
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 4B

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE AND SEX FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA, 1976

Living Arrangement		65-74			75+			Total 65+		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Nuclear Family	#	28,210	19,540	47,750	11,295	4,985	16,280	39,505	24,525	64,030
	%	68.5	45.0	56.4	47.5	17.8	31.4	60.8	34.3	46.9
Extended Family	#	5,355	7,415	12,770	3,260	6,265	9,525	8,615	13,680	22,295
	%	13.0	17.1	15.1	13.7	22.4	18.4	13.2	19.1	16.3
*Non-Family or Institution	#	2,030	3,620	5,650	5,435	7,205	12,640	7,465	10,825	18,290
	%	4.9	8.3	6.7	22.8	25.7	24.4	11.5	15.2	13.4
Living Alone	#	5,605	12,860	18,465	3,810	9,560	13,370	9,415	22,420	31,835
	%	13.6	29.6	21.8	16.0	34.1	25.8	14.5	31.4	23.3
Total	#	41,200	43,435	84,635	23,800	28,015	51,815	65,000	71,450	136,450
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Canada Census 1971 and 1976, unpublished data.

*This category has been approximated by adding the information on seniors in collective dwellings to the information on non-institutional persons living in non-family situations, but not living alone.

TABLE 5A

LIVING ARRANGEMENT BY RURAL/URBAN GROUPS AND AGE FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA, 1971

Living Arrangement		Urban (10,000 & Over)			Urban (1,000-9,999)			Rural Non-Farm			Rural Farm			Total Alberta		
		65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T
Nuclear Family	#	19,520	7,495	27,015	7,340	3,035	10,375	6,915	2,890	9,805	5,395	1,075	6,470	39,170	14,495	53,665
	%	51.9	29.7	43.0	56.8	30.7	45.5	56.0	40.9	50.6	60.2	32.4	52.7	54.5	31.9	45.7
Extended Family	#	6,885	5,725	12,610	1,555	1,445	3,000	1,540	1,135	2,675	2,280	1,670	3,950	12,260	9,975	22,235
	%	18.3	22.7	20.1	12.0	14.6	13.1	12.5	16.1	13.8	25.5	50.4	32.2	17.1	21.9	18.9
Non-Family	#	3,050	6,145	9,195	1,345	3,215	4,560	590	790	1,380	285	150	435	5,270	10,300	15,570
	%	8.1	24.4	14.6	10.4	32.5	20.0	4.8	11.2	7.1	3.2	4.5	3.6	7.3	22.6	13.3
Living Alone	#	8,185	5,855	14,040	2,695	2,190	4,885	3,290	2,245	5,535	995	420	1,415	15,165	10,710	25,875
	%	21.7	23.2	22.3	20.8	22.2	21.4	26.7	31.8	28.5	11.1	12.7	11.5	21.1	23.6	22.1
Total	#	37,640	25,220	62,860	12,935	9,885	22,820	12,335	7,060	19,395	8,955	3,315	12,270	71,865	45,480	117,345
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 5B

LIVING ARRANGEMENT BY RURAL/URBAN GROUPS AND AGE FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION
ALBERTA 1976

Living Arrangement		Urban (10,000 & Over)			Urban (1,000-9,999)			Rural Non-Farm			Rural Farm			Total Alberta		
		65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T	65-74	75+	T
Nuclear Family	#	25,915	8,825	34,740	8,455	3,265	11,720	9,165	3,280	12,445	4,210	900	5,110	47,745	16,270	64,015
	%	54.0	28.7	44.2	58.9	32.4	48.0	58.2	38.2	51.1	64.0	37.0	56.7	56.4	31.4	47.0
Extended Family	#	7,680	5,760	13,440	1,505	1,130	2,635	2,205	1,535	3,740	1,400	1,100	2,500	12,790	9,525	22,315
	%	16.0	18.8	17.1	10.5	11.2	10.8	14.0	17.8	15.4	21.3	45.2	27.7	15.1	18.4	16.3
*Non-Family	#	3,380	8,015	11,395	1,265	3,315	4,580	775	1,220	1,995	230	90	320	5,650	12,640	18,290
	%	7.1	26.1	14.5	8.8	32.9	18.7	4.9	14.2	8.2	3.5	3.7	3.6	6.7	24.4	13.4
Living Alone	#	10,980	8,105	19,085	3,135	2,360	5,495	3,605	2,560	6,165	735	345	1,080	18,455	13,370	31,825
	%	22.9	26.4	24.2	21.8	23.4	22.5	22.9	29.8	25.3	11.2	14.1	12.0	21.8	25.8	23.3
Total	#	47,955	30,705	78,660	14,360	10,070	24,430	15,750	8,595	24,345	6,575	2,435	9,010	84,640	51,805	136,445
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Canada Census 1971 and 1976, unpublished data.

*This category has been approximated by adding the information on seniors in collective dwellings to the information on non-institutional persons living in non-family situations, but not living alone.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The distribution of the public assistance caseload by reason for assistance for the quarter October-December 1978 is compared in Table 1 with the previous quarter. The total average caseload remained very stable decreasing only by 12 (0.04 percent) to 33,053. Persons with dependent children remained the largest category receiving public assistance with a caseload of 13,780 or 41.7 percent of the total caseload. Persons receiving public assistance due to physical ill health or disability constituted 18.0 percent of the total caseload and persons 60 years of age and over 15.1 percent. These three categories accounted for 74.7 percent of the total caseload.

Employables increased 2.4 percent from the previous quarter. This increase can be attributed to normal seasonal unemployment during the winter months. In previous years the increase in employables for the October-December quarter had been much greater (5.7 percent in 1977). The smaller increase in 1978 can be attributed to the policy implemented April 1, 1978 regarding single employables. Under the new policy, single employables were provided with a maximum of two weeks assistance if in their own or shared rental accommodation, or if in a board and lodging accommodation. Single employables residing in Edmonton or Calgary who did not have accommodation arrangements were referred to the single men's hostel or the women's overnight shelter.

Persons with dependent children decreased 1.9 percent this quarter to an average caseload of 13,780. Persons aged 60+ decreased 1.3 percent to a caseload of 4,983.

The age-sex distribution for October-December is shown in Table 2. Male caseload increased 1.6 percent to an average caseload of 10,593. Males below 45 years of age increased 3.3 percent and those aged 45 or older decreased by 0.4 percent. The largest age groups for males remained 20-24 years of age and 60-64. These constituted 25.5 percent of all males and 8.2 percent of the total caseload.

Female caseload decreased 0.8 percent this quarter to an average caseload of 22,460. The largest female age groups were those 20-24 and 25-29, constituting 31.9 percent of the female caseload and 21.7 percent of the total caseload.

The distribution of public assistance cases among the 41 regional offices is shown in Table 3. Edmonton and Calgary regional offices continued to account for 66.1 percent of the total caseload.

Public assistance cases by employment status and reason for assistance for October-December 1978 are shown in Table 4. The total number of persons are public assistance and in the labour force continued to increase this quarter by 3.5 percent to 10,557. The number of persons on public assistance and not in the labour force decreased by 1.7 percent to 22,445. A new policy affecting persons with dependent children was implemented April 1, 1978. This policy requires single parents with one child four months of age or older and single parents with two children 12 years of age or older to attempt to find employment or training (if

required) for employment, when both mother and child(ren) are mentally and physically healthy. A very noticeable effect of this new policy is the decline of over one thousand single parent cases over the past nine months. At the same time, there has been quite a substantial redistribution in employment status, with large transfers of persons who previously were coded as required to care for children to the category of employed or available for work. Persons with dependents required to care for children decreased 14.0 percent to 6,957. The number of persons with dependent children and in the labour force increased by 7.1 percent to 5,046. Persons with dependent children availble for work increased 12.4 percent to 2,336 cases. Employables in school or training increased 33.1 percent to 398, while employables in the labour force decreased by 0.34 percent to 3,840 cases.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD BY REASON FOR ASSISTANCE, ALBERTA
October-December 1978

Reasons for Assistance	Quarterly Average July-September 1978		Oct	Nov.	Dec.	Quarterly Average Oct.-Dec. 1978		Percentage Change Between Quarters
	#	%	#	#	#	#	%	%
Age 60+	5,050	15.27	4,998	4,982	4,968	4,982	15.07	-1.35
Physical Ill Health/ Disability	5,799	17.54	5,815	5,941	6,061	5,939	17.97	+2.41
Mental Ill Health	1,926	5.83	1,905	1,914	1,922	1,914	5.79	-0.62
Mental Retardation	1,149	3.47	1,186	1,201	1,209	1,199	3.63	+4.35
Unsuited for Employment	881	2.66	898	921	949	923	2.79	+4.77
Persons with Dependent Children	14,045	42.48	13,772	13,804	13,764	13,780	41.69	-1.89
Employables	4,215	12.75	4,123	4,254	4,571	4,316	13.06	+2.40
Total	33,065	100.00	32,697	33,017	33,444	33,053	100.00	-0.04
Percentage Change From Previous Month			-1.83	+0.98	+1.29			
Percentage Change From Previous Quarter	-3.43					-0.04		
Unemployment Rates*	4.6		4.0	4.4	3.8	4.1		

* Source: Canada Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

TABLE 2

AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD, ALBERTA
October-December, 1978

Age Group	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
15-19	521	1.58	1,656	5.01	2,177	6.59
20-24	1,339	4.05	3,906	11.82	5,245	15.87
25-29	1,192	3.61	3,269	9.89	4,461	13.50
30-34	977	2.95	2,707	8.19	3,684	11.14
35-39	881	2.67	2,035	6.16	2,916	8.82
40-44	824	2.49	1,612	4.88	2,436	7.37
45-49	885	2.68	1,442	4.36	2,327	7.04
50-54	993	3.00	1,386	4.19	2,379	7.20
55-59	954	2.89	1,485	4.49	2,439	7.38
60-64	1,364	4.13	1,857	5.62	3,221	9.74
65+	663	2.00	1,105	3.34	1,768	5.35
Total	10,593	32.05	22,460	67.95	33,053	100.00

TABLE 3 DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE IN CASELOAD BY DISTRICT OFFICES, ALBERTA
October-December 1978

District Office	Quarterly Average July-Sept. 1978		Quarterly Average Oct.-Dec. 1978		Rank Order Over Last Quarter		Rate of Change Over Last Quarter
	#	%	#	%	Last Quarter	This Quarter	
Edmonton North	5,509	16.66	5,418	16.39	1	1	-1.65
Calgary North	3,031	9.17	3,049	9.22	2	2	0.59
Clayburn Centre	2,605	7.88	2,659	8.05	3	3	2.07
Calgary South	2,403	7.27	2,571	7.78	5	4	14.48
Edmonton West	2,458	7.43	2,450	7.41	4	5	-0.33
Alberta Place	1,680	5.08	1,609	4.87	6	6	-4.23
Lethbridge	1,528	4.62	1,524	4.61	7	7	-0.26
Edmonton West 10	1,373	4.15	1,300	3.93	8	8	-5.32
Red Deer	1,167	3.53	1,158	3.50	9	9	-0.77
Bonnie Doon	1,106	3.34	1,133	3.43	10	10	2.44
Grande Prairie	882	2.67	841	2.55	12	11	-4.65
Edmonton South	889	2.69	829	2.51	11	12	-6.75
Wetaskiwin	736	2.23	760	2.30	13	13	3.26
Medicine Hat	653	1.97	631	1.91	14	14	-3.37
St. Albert	513	1.55	518	1.57	15	15	0.97
Barrhead	427	1.29	428	1.30	17	16	0.23
High Prairie	448	1.35	430	1.30	16	17	-4.02
Edson	383	1.16	401	1.21	19	18	4.70
Lac La Biche	393	1.19	390	1.18	18	19	-0.76
Peace River	325	0.98	327	0.99	20	20	0.62
Vegreville	323	0.98	328	0.99	21	21	1.55
Bonnyville	306	0.93	320	0.97	22	22	4.58
St. Paul	283	0.86	292	0.88	24	23	3.18
Sherwood Park	292	0.88	285	0.86	23	24	-2.40
Drumheller	276	0.83	275	0.83	25	25	-0.36
Slave Lake	268	0.81	270	0.82	26	26	0.75
Vermilion	258	0.78	269	0.81	27	27	4.26
Camrose	251	0.76	264	0.80	28	28	5.18
Rocky Mtn. House	244	0.74	249	0.75	29	29	2.05
Fort McMurray	236	0.71	246	0.74	30	30	4.24
Crowsnest*	230	0.70	231	0.70	31	31	0.43
Olds	212	0.64	220	0.67	32	32	3.77
High Level	193	0.58	195	0.59	34	33	1.04
Wainwright	194	0.59	189	0.57	33	34	-2.58
Brooks	169	0.51	190	0.57	37	35	12.43
Athabasca	172	0.52	185	0.56	36	36	7.56
Smoky Lake	184	0.56	175	0.53	35	37	-4.89
Stettler	158	0.48	162	0.49	38	38	2.53
Whitecourt	148	0.45	138	0.42	39	39	-6.76
Hanna	83	0.25	78	0.24	40	40	-6.02
Grande Cache	76	0.23	66	0.20	41	41	-13.16
Total	33,065	100.00	33,053	100.00			-0.04

*Blairmore Regional Office has changed to Crowsnest Regional Office.

TABLE 4

AVERAGE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND REASON FOR ASSISTANCE, ALBERTA
October-December 1978

Reasons for Assistance	REASON FOR ASSISTANCE																	
	Aged 60+		Persons with Dependent Children		Physical Illness or Disability		Mental Illness		Mental Retardation		Employable		Unsuitable for Employment		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
IN THE LABOR FORCE																
Employed:																
Employed and awaiting pay	-	-	246	1.79	19	0.32	8	0.42	-	-	711	16.56	-	-	984	2.98
Fully employed	19	0.38	1,093	7.94	49	0.83	76	3.98	127	10.56	424	9.88	-	-	1,788	5.42
Part-time--not seeking full-time	140	2.82	972	7.06	187	3.15	154	8.06	119	9.92	176	4.10	-	-	1,748	5.30
Working part-time--seeking or encouraged to seek full-time	-	-	388	2.82	21	0.35	18	0.94	10	0.83	168	3.91	-	-	605	1.83
Self-employment	30	0.60	11	0.08	19	0.32	-	-	-	-	46	1.07	-	-	106	0.32
SUBTOTAL	189	3.80	2,710	19.69	295	4.97	256	13.40	256	21.33	1,525	35.52	-	-	5,231	15.85
Available for Work:																
Available for full-time work	44	0.89	2,185	15.88	105	1.77	62	3.24	9	0.75	2,255	52.53	-	-	4,660	14.12
Available for part-time work	23	0.46	144	1.05	47	0.79	11	0.57	-	-	60	1.40	-	-	285	0.86
Available for sheltered work	-	-	7	0.05	111	1.87	114	5.97	149	12.42	-	-	-	-	381	1.16
SUBTOTAL	67	1.35	2,336	16.98	263	4.43	187	9.78	158	13.17	2,315	53.93	-	-	5,326	16.14
TOTAL IN THE LABOR FORCE	256	5.15	5,046	36.67	558	9.40	443	23.18	414	34.50	3,840	89.45	-	-	10,557	31.99
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE																
Preparing for Employment:																
Attending school up to and including Grade 12	-	-	260	1.89	31	0.52	9	0.47	43	3.59	252	5.87	-	-	595	1.80
Attending technical or vocational training	-	-	621	4.51	58	0.98	69	3.61	-	-	131	3.05	-	-	879	2.66
Attending post secondary education	-	-	147	1.07	15	0.25	-	-	-	-	15	0.35	-	-	177	0.54
SUBTOTAL	-	-	1,028	7.47	104	1.75	78	4.08	43	3.59	398	9.27	-	-	1,651	5.00
Unavailable for Work Due to Illness or Age:																
Illness up to 90 days	37	0.74	223	1.62	1,257	21.17	139	7.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,656	5.02
Illness 90 days or over	920	18.49	303	2.20	3,416	57.53	804	42.07	370	30.83	-	-	-	-	5,813	17.61
Age	3,366	67.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,366	10.20
SUBTOTAL	4,323	86.89	526	3.82	4,673	78.70	943	49.35	370	30.83	-	-	-	-	10,835	32.83
Unavailable to Work Due to Other Reasons:																
Required to care for children	40	0.80	6,957	50.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,997	21.20
Expecting a child	-	-	96	0.70	217	3.65	-	-	-	-	43	1.00	-	-	356	1.08
In jail less than 90 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	0.28	-	-	12	0.04
SUBTOTAL	40	0.80	7,053	51.25	217	3.65	-	-	-	-	55	1.28	-	-	7,365	22.32
Unsuitable for Employment:	356	7.16	109	0.79	386	6.50	447	23.39	373	31.08	-	-	923	100.00	2,594	7.86
TOTAL NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE	4,719	94.85	8,716	63.33	5,380	90.60	1,468	76.82	786	65.50	453	10.55	923	100.00	22,445	68.01
TOTAL	4,975	100.00	13,762	100.00	5,938	100.00	1,911	100.00	1,200	100.00	4,293	100.00	923	100.00	33,002	100.00
Missing Data	-7		-18		-1		-3		+1		-23		-		-51	
TOTAL CASELOAD	4,982		13,780		5,939		1,914		1,199		4,316		923		33,053	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN (A.A.I.P.)

The maximum amounts of federal and provincial senior citizen benefits are presented in Table 1. During the October-December 1978 quarter, pensioners received a federal Old Age Security (O.A.S.) pension of $164.74 per month. As well, pensioners with limited income from other sources received benefits from the Guaranteed Income Supplement (G.I.S.) and the Alberta Assured Income Plan (A.A.I.P.). The maximum G.I.S. payment for a single pensioner was $115.55 per month and $205.22 for a two-pensioner couple. The maximum monthly A.A.I.P. payment was $45.01 per single pensioner and $94.40 per two-pensioner couple. Both A.A.I.P. and G.I.S. payments are reduced with increasing income from other sources. Payments also vary with marital status and spouse's eligibility for O.A.S. or Spouses Allowance.[1]

The number of A.A.I.P. recipients by marital status is shown in Table 2. During the October-December 1978 quarter, there was an average of 79,539 recipients. Single, widowed or divorced comprised 53.1 percent of the total A.A.I.P. recipients. The remaining 46.9 percent was made up of married pensioners, with the majority of couples receiving two pensions (36.3 percent).

The number of recipients and the type of benefits received (maximum, partial or minimum) is shown by marital status in Table 3. A.A.I.P. benefits are income-tested. Singles and two-pensioner couples with no income other than O.A.S./G.I.S. received full benefits as shown in Table 1. Maximum benefits were received by 39.7 percent of singles compared to 16.9 percent of two-pensioner couples; an indication that fewer single persons had outside sources of income. Couples receiving only one O.A.S. pension or a pension plus Spouse's Allowance were eligible for full benefits if the couple's combined annual income was below $2,024.88 and $2,688.00, respectively. In the October-December quarter, 48.4 percent of one-pensioner couples without Spouse's Allowance and 55.3 percent of one-pensioner couples with Spouse's Allowance were eligible for full benefits. Overall, maximum benefits were received by 32.8 percent of the total recipients, partial benefits by 58.1 percent and the $10 minimum by 9.1 percent.

In the beginning of 1978, a policy was implemented whereby pensioners with minor increase in their income from sources other than O.A.S. and G.I.S. will not receive a downward adjustment in their A.A.I.P. payment. In December 1978, 14,997 A.A.I.P. recipients (18.9 percent) benefited from this policy.

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[1] The details of Federal O.A.S., G.I.S. and Spouse's Allowance are described in the glossary.

TABLE 1

MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFITS FROM OLD AGE SECURITY, GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT, AND ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN BY MARITAL STATUS FOR THE QUARTER
October-December 1978

Marital Status	Federal			Total
	Old Age Security	Maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement	Maximum Alberta Assured Income Plan	
Single, Widowed, Divorced	164.74	115.55	45.01	325.30
Married:				
Two-Pensioner Couples				
Each	164.74	102.61	47.20	314.55
Total	329.48	205.22	94.40	629.10
One-Pensioner Couples				
With No Spouse's Allowance	164.74	115.55	45.01	325.30
With Spouse's Allowance				
Head	164.74	102.61	45.01	312.36
Spouse	164.74	102.61	*	267.35
Total	329.48	205.22	45.01	579.71

* Recipients of Spouse's Allowance are not eligible for the Alberta Assured Income Plan

TABLE 2

ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN RECIPIENTS BY MARITAL STATUS FOR THE QUARTER
October-December 1978

Marital Status	Previous Quarterly Average*		Current Quarter			Average October-December		Percentage Change Between Quarters
	#	%	Oct	Nov	Dec	#	%	
Single, Widowed Divorced	42,034	53.2	42,250	42,227	42,246	42,241	53.1	0.49
Married:								
Two-Pensioner Couples	28,567	36.1	28,893	28,872	28,929	28,898	36.3	1.16
One-Pensioner Couples								
With No Spouse's Allowance	3,082	3.9	3,094	3,087	3,063	3,082	3.9	--
With Spouse's Allowance	5,357	6.8	5,368	5,311	5,276	5,318	6.7	-0.73
Total Married	37,006	46.8	37,355	37,270	37,268	37,298	46.9	0.79
TOTAL	79,040	100.0	79,605	79,497	79,514	79,539	100.0	0.63

TABLE 3 ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN RECIPIENTS BY MARITAL STATUS AND KINDS OF BENEFITS FOR THE QUARTER October-December 1978

Marital Status	Maximum Benefit		Partial Benefit		$10 Minimum		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single, Widowed Divorced	16,762	39.7	21,801	51.6	3,678	8.7	42,241	100.0
Married:								
Two-Pensioner Couples	4,893	16.9	21,264	73.6	2,741	9.5	28,898	100.0
One-Pensioner Couples								
With No Spouse's Allowance	1,492	48.4	1,159	37.6	431	14.0	3,082	100.0
With Spouse's Allowance	2,943	55.3	1,977	37.2	398	7.5	5,318	100.0
Total Married	9,328	25.0	24,400	65.4	3,570	9.6	37,298	100.0
TOTAL	26,090	32.8	46,201	58.1	7,248	9.1	79,539	100.0
Total Previous Quarter	26,148	33.1	46,144	58.4	6,748	8.5	79,040	100.0
Change from Previous Quarter	-58	-0.3	+57	-0.3	+500	+0.6	+499	-
Percentage Change Over Previous Quarter		-0.22		+0.12		+7.41		+0.63

GLOSSARY

Alberta Assured Income Plan (A.A.I.P.) - This is a provincial income supplement program for senior citizens in receipt of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (passed in June 1975). This program is income-tested through the G.I.S. eligibility, with A.A.I.P. benefits reduced by twenty-five cents for each dollar of outside income. However, there are no reductions of A.A.I.P. below a $10 minimum benefit.

Caseload - The number of households, or units, assisted; these units consisting of one or more persons. Caseload is often used to refer to the collection heads of these units.

Guaranteed Income Supplement (G.I.S.) - O.A.S. pensioners are entitled to a monthly supplement if they have a low income. The supplement amount depends on the pensioner's marital status and amount of income (excluding the O.A.S. pension and assets). Income includes monies received from other retirement pensions, earnings, interest, dividends, rent, etc. Joint incomes are used for married couples. For every two dollars of such income, G.I.S. is reduced by one dollar. G.I.S. is adjusted quarterly to reflect the rise in cost of living. All G.I.S. recipients must reapply annually. G.I.S. recipients are automatically qualified to receive the Alberta Assured Income Plan. For every dollar of Income, the A.A.I.P. benefit is reduced by twenty-five cents, to a minimum of $10.

Municipal Caseload - A municipality is responsible for assisting an employable person who is a resident of the municipality and:

(1) was a resident of the municipality during the twelve months immediately preceding his application, and
(2) did not, during any part of these twelve months, receive material aid from the province or any other municipality.

The municipality is reimbursed 90 percent by the province for expenditures incurred.

Old Age Security (O.A.S.) - Senior Citizens aged 65 or over who meet residence requirement are eligible for a federal monthly O.A.S. pension. This is a demogrant program with benefits not affected by the recipient's needs or income. Benefits are adjusted quarterly to increases in the Consumer Price Index; however, index declines do not reduce benefit amounts.

Reasons for Assistance - The social allowance program is available to those persons who lack the resources or income sufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependents. Eligibility for assistance is defined within the following categories for each application; the social worker assigns a reason for assistance on the following rank order basis. Applicants are assigned to the first category of reason for assistance that applies to them, proceeding through the list of reasons in their specified order.

Age (Person 60 or over) - A person may be considered eligible for assistance under this reason if 60 years of age or older. Prior to November 1971, women between 55 and 60 years of age were also eligible for social allowance by reason of age alone.

Person with Dependent Children - This reason is applicable to the single parent family where the parent (of either sex) actually has custody of or is personally caring for a dependent child.

Physical Ill Health/Disability - This reason is applicable to a person with a physical disability, impairment, or illness, regardless of expected duration, which prevents rendering services for wages sufficient to meet the person's needs and those of dependents.

Mental Ill Health - This reason is applicable to persons having an obvious mental illness or a medical certificate or assessment is required if the disability is not readily recognizable.

Mental Retardation - This reason is applicable to persons who are mentally retarded. A medical certificate or assessment is required if the disability is not readily recognizable.

Employables - This reason is applicable to persons who are unemployed and seeking employment or whose employability may be under assessment, as well as to persons employed full- or part-time with insufficient income. This reason also applies to persons temporarily unavailable for work because of schooling, pregnancy, or in jail for less than 90 days.

Unsuitable for Employment - This reason is applicable to cases which have been assessed as socially, psychologically, or otherwise unsuited for employment. Such cases would be transferred from other reasons for assistance after the assessment period.

Guardian Social Allowance - This is an extension of the social allowance program designed to assist persons acting as guardians and providing care to children placed in their homes by parents unable or unwilling to provide such care.

Recipients - In contrast to the term "caseload", this term refers to the unit heads plus their dependents. The number of recipients on assistance is approximately two or three times as great as the caseload.

Spouse's Allowance - Eligible spouses of O.A.S. recipients can apply for a federal Spouse's Allowance. Eligibility depends on age (60-64) and residency requirements. The maximum benefits are equivalent to the O.A.S. pension plus maximum G.I.S. at the married rate. For every four dollars of the couple's annual outside incomes up to $2,688 the Spouse's Allowance is reduced by three dollars. Income(s) in excess of $2,688 reduces the Spouse's Allowance by fifty cents for every two dollars of income. Spouses receiving this allowance are not eligible for A.A.I.P. benefits.